



WESTERN PA



MUSHROOM CLUB

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Editor: Becky Plischke

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President: Dick Dougall

V Pres: Glenn Carr

Sec: Joyce Gross

C Sec: Valerie Baker

Treas: George Gross

THE FOURTH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MID-ATLANTIC MUSHROOM FORAY LAST YEAR THIS WAS THE NATION'S LARGEST FALL MUSHROOM FORAY MUSHROOM MANIA

Gary Lincoff, the most famous mushroom expert in the world, will return on Sept. 18, 2004.

Gary Lincoff, author of the National Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Mushrooms,



has hunted mushrooms all over the world. Last year the event sold out with 188 in attendance, making it the largest fall foray in the U.S.

This year we expect it to sell out even earlier. Reservations are already going at a brisk pace.

Don't delay; fill out the enclosed reservation form and send it in today. This is a major event beginning at 7:30 in the morning and ending at 7:00 p.m. We will keep a similar format to last year and add a few surprises. We will have a number of other mushroom experts to help us with the event.

Our mushroom experts will identify scores of mushrooms for you to learn. You can bring mushrooms from home to be identified, and you can talk with and get tips from experts.

Most of the mushrooms I have learned were learned from going to forays like this but I had to travel to Maine and other places in New England to learn them. Now we have a major foray right here in our backyard.

This year's event will be a one day or a three day foray, take your pick. The event will be held in the vicinity of the Route 8--Butler Valley exchange of the PA Turnpike.

NEWS FLASH!! Famous mycologist Dr. Tom Volk will be a special guest mycologist at the foray. Dr. Volk is an expert on morels, sulfur shelf, stump mushrooms and many others.



He is a professor of mycology at the University of Wisconsin. Tom is a mycologist in great demand at the major NAMA and NEMF forays. Now he is coming to ours! He is a member of the commission to assign universally accepted names to mushrooms.

Many say that the mushroom tasting is worth more than the price of the entire event.

You will find enclosed a registration form. If you wait, not only will the price be higher, but it will probably be sold out. The cost is \$25 each if you register before July 10, \$50 for non-members.

CLUB TEE SHIRT

We are pleased to announce our club tee shirt is still available. You can now wear your WPMC tee shirt and let everyone know about our wonderful club.

Get yours at a walk or meeting for only \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

WILD MUSHROOM COOKBOOK

New Edition -- Volume 2

Filled with new recipes, Volume 2 of the club's cookbook is now available.

Members can have a Mushroom Cookbook for \$5, tax included, or \$6 nonmembers. You can get a copy at a club meeting or send your check payable to the WPMC to Rebecca Byerly, 441 Springdale Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Please include \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

TAKE US FOR A WALK

If you want to lead a mushroom walk in your area, call John Plischke III at 724-832-0271 or email fungi01@aol.com

MOREL MADNESS, PART II

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

From the Journal of
Michael Lloyd

April 1. Apparently I need help, or so say my partners at the law firm. I think it is a combination of greatly decreased productivity in the spring months and an odor emanating from my office (either it is the trophies of past morels proudly displayed but poorly preserved or the running clothes that I keep meaning to take home...). So, for the good of the Firm, I agree to a seven-session package with a Dr. Phil "wannabe" in the South Hills. Even my wife supports the idea and asks if she can add a few "issues" to the project list.

April 5. Well, I met with Dr. "What's His Name" today. Being a good attorney, I verified that the office visits were confidential, directed to issues of my choice and not reportable to my firm. Then I spent my session talking about the Pirates chance of another world series win in my lifetime and fell asleep on his couch.

April 6. It's morel weather and I am more determined than ever. After reviewing my notes from John Plischke conversation #25 [Exhibit 2002-25 Plischke] (I have my Secretary transcribe every conversation I have with John for later study), I realize my mistake. I have been spending all of my time looking under Elms, Apples and Poplars. John's statement reads, "morels grow where God wants them to grow, and that can be anywhere."

So, to be most efficient, I have been looking for morels on my way into the City from the South Hills. To enhance my vision, I have rigged a set of binoculars on the passenger window. It still takes considerable time to properly search the drainage ditches and vacant lots on West Liberty Avenue. But there is good news and bad news. The bad news is that this new practice has added a bit to my commute. What used to be a half hour drive is now 2 ½ hours. The good news is that I'm pretty sure that I spotted a morel in an exposed manhole in the Liberty Tubes. I'll check it out further tomorrow.

April 8. I met with Dr. Alan again. Maybe this therapy stuff is useful. It turns out that the Doc lives on ten acres in Washington County near Mingo Creek Park. He thinks there are some Elm trees there, but is not sure. I suggest that we have the next meeting at his house. Reluctantly, he agrees.

The morel sighting in the Tubes was a dud. It turned out to be an electrical wiring connection. By the way did you know that it is possible to create a blackout for half of Mount Washington by pulling really hard on an electrical connection? Also, it is apparently against the

law to hunt mushrooms in a tunnel in Pittsburgh. (I'm fighting this one!)

April 15. I convinced Alan that we should conduct our session in the nice Spring air while taking a walk. We spent the afternoon walking in the woods of his palatial estate. Although we didn't find any morels, I described in great detail how to identify a morel. Alan seems genuinely interested and is already one of my closest friends (I hope he doesn't charge me for the three-hour session).

April 20. Morel season is in full swing now. Every day I read reports of morel findings from our Club members. I haven't found any myself, unless you count the bag of fresh black morels that I found in Dick Dougall's trunk. (What's the sense of buying an expensive car if the trunk lock can be picked so easily?)

April 25. I quit therapy today. Dr. Alan is no friend of mine. We were enjoying our weekly session when Dr. Alan stumbled onto a swarm of black morels at the base of a poplar. Only too bad for me, because even though I tried to take his attention away by feigning a broken ankle, he made the identification. Not only would he not share the morels with me, but also he would not drive me to the Emergency Room (apparently my dedication to a proper simulated accident resulted in a real sprained ankle). To top it off, I discovered the next morning that his property is already posted with a "No Trespassing" sign.

April 30. Well I won my case today – sort of. The Judge was sympathetic to how an electrical cluster in a manhole could indeed resemble a yellow morel. After 25 minutes of showing him display photos from my vast collection and character witnesses from the Mushroom Club, the Judge dropped all charges on the condition that I begin commuting by mass transit.

May 10. Today is the day. I found my first morel (that was not purchased, stolen or acquired during dead of night from the property of an uncharitable care-giver). I gave the morel to my wife as a Mother's day gift. It's the least I could do after spending 12 hours hunting and missing our family dinner. I tell her that all of the months of searching have all been for this one moment where I can give her this truly special gift. In other words, it's all her fault! She seems to be truly touched (at least she says that I am).

I am now very satisfied and content to have finally achieved a successful and rewarding morel season. I also take comfort in knowing that it will be nearly a full year before I'm again afflicted with such a debilitating passion!

Is that a chanterelle over there?

NEW CLUB MYCOLOGIST

La Monte H.P. Yarroll started mushrooming in the mid 90's while living in Tasmania. After returning to the States in 1995, he joined the Illinois Mycological Association. In 2002 he started photographing fungi, amassing hundreds of photos since then. In November, he moved from Illinois to Pennsylvania to join the WPMC, and incidentally start a new job. He's father of four wonderful kids, two of whom are keenly interested in mushrooms. In his day job he's a Linux Architect.



ARTICLES WANTED

Mail or email them to Becky Plischke today morelbp@aol.com or mail to 129 Grant St, Greensburg, PA 15601.

We anxiously anticipate your mushroom article, recipe, joke, puzzle, story or cartoon for the newsletter. Tell us about a mushroom hunting outing. Write a poem, draw a picture or send in a photo. All will be welcome.

NEMF WEBSITE

NEMF, the NorthEast Mycological Federation, now has its own website at: www.nemf.org
The site includes lists of affiliated clubs and e-mail addresses of trustees and newsletter editors, checklists for past NEMF forays, information on the upcoming foray, a calendar for major club forays in coming year, pictures taken by Gerry Sheine and Richard Progovitz at the 2003 foray, and links to mushroom-related websites. It features a superb Beginners' Page with keys, by Gary Lincoff. Our own John Plischke III has photos of edible mushrooms on the Recipes Page.

SAM'S CORNER BY DR. SAM RISTICH

The Maine Mycological Association has published Sam's Corner, the Public Journal of a Mushroom Guru. This is a marvelous compilation of Sam's delightful, entertaining, and informative articles that have been published in the newsletter of the Maine Mycological Association. It contains 15 years of articles written by Sam.

We have all enjoyed Sam's visits to the WPMC and I am sure you would enjoy his articles. The book cover features Sam's spore print art.

If you would like a copy, send a check payable to V.F. Thomas Co., MMA to V.F. Thomas

Co., P.O. Box 281, Bar Harbor, ME 04609-0281. They are \$15.75 each plus \$3 shipping and handling.

WPMC WEBSITE

Elizabeth Barrow, webmaster extraordinaire, has created one of the best mushroom club websites in the country.

We highly suggest you put it on your favorites list. www.wpamushroomclub.org

If you misplace your newsletter, you can find information about Club Meetings and Walks and Forays. In addition, you can check out the Yahoo Mushroom Groups, Photo Gallery, Links to Other Sites, Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray Photos, Mushroom Stuff and much more. Be absolutely sure to check out Bob Lucas's Species List. See where we have been and what mushrooms we have found.

Do you have a photo of a mushroom or mushroomers on a mushroom walk? Send it to Liz at bobliz@microspell.com She just might put it on the website.

SPECIES LIST

Bob Lucas has created a WPMC Species List that you can find on our website.

Have you ever been to a walk or foray and forgotten the name of a mushroom or remembered a name but not what it looked like?

Bob Lucas's Species list solves the problem. It lists all the mushrooms that were identified at a walk or foray so you can refresh your memory. By clicking on the camera icon you can view a Google search of photos of that mushroom and instantly recall the mushrooms that you saw and may have already forgotten. It is a tremendous educational tool.

Species Lists used to bore me. They were just lists of names; Bob Lucas has taken the Species List into the 21st Century.

If you are not using the list and using it often, you are missing out on one of the best educational tools for learning mushrooms that has been created in many years.

ITEMS FOR SALE

The club has loupes and wax bags for sale at the meetings. The wax bags will keep mushrooms fresher and a loupe will help you with identification by magnifying key features.

You can also get a club tee shirt, which illustrates some beautiful PA mushrooms. The WPMC Cookbook, Volume 2 with all new recipes is available and in high demand.

WINECAP STROPHARIA

By
John
Plischke III

THE WINE-CAP STROPHARIA



It has purplish colored gills.

Look in mulch in the spring then again in the fall.

It has a purplish colored spore print.

(Stropharia rugosoannulata)

(Stropharia ferii) (Naematoloma ferii)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Wine Red Stropharia

FAMILY: Strophariaceae

DESCRIPTION: It is from 2 to 8 inches tall. It has a wine colored cap hence the common name. The Wine Cap can often be transplanted from one location to another easily by taking a bucket full of mycelium covered mulch and adding it to another pile of woodchips.

Flesh: Its flesh is white and similar in thickness to the gills on mature specimens.

Cap: It is from 3/8 to 1 inch tall and from 1 1/8 to 10 inches wide. The convex caps on the young mushrooms are a deep purple to purplish brown sometimes with reddish tones in the purple. Once the caps mature the sun can fade them and they can become dark tan to beige. It is shaped like a bell then convex then almost flat at maturity. It is dry to somewhat moist and smooth to the touch and there can be cracks on it at maturity. It is often somewhat shiny. The skin can peel back to almost the middle of the cap. The young mushrooms cap margin can have small whitish colored flecks from its partial veil on it.

Gills: They are an off white color before the cap expands to reveal the gills becoming light purplish gray color becoming almost purple black with age. They are straight becoming wavy with age. They are closely spaced and are attached to the stalk. There are often white particles (patches) of the veil on the gills. On young unopened specimens you can not usually see the gills.

Spore Print: Dark purplish to purplish brown.

Stalk: It is from 1 5/8 to 6 1/4 inches tall and from 3/8 to 1 1/8 inches wide. It has a thick pointy ring on the upper part of it. It is a creamy white color, sometimes with some beige. The bottom of the stalk on older specimens can be wider than the top and the base can be swollen. It is not hollow but can be pithy in the center. It is smooth but has lines running down it and on the top by the gills you can often see marks left by the gills on mature specimens. It often has white thread like mycelium attached to it when pulled out of the mulch. It can also be a little cottony there.

Odor: Mild.

RANGE: United States and Canada.

WHERE TO LOOK: In mulch and wood chips, such as places where the tree trimmers dump out truckloads. They can often be found for several weeks to over a month on the same pile of mulch. To find them I often go to parks and look in their mulched areas or in mulched landscaped areas of buildings and mulched trails. My friend Bobby has picked a few at his farm. Do not look in cypress mulch, colored mulch or pine bark because not much grows there and do not look in freshly chipped mulch unless it was dumped over older mulch because not much grows in it until it starts to rot. Mulched areas without any shade are seldom productive.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: Somewhat common.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: They occasionally found singly to or several spaced out but are more often found in large quantities that are closely spaced. Several to over a 100 can be found in a mulch pile.

SOCIAL PLANTS: There may be none or there can be grass, dandelion, broadleaf plantain, sour grass, ground ivy, thistle, and smart weed coming up through the mulch right next to them.

WHEN TO LOOK: The end of April to October. May and June and September-October being the best months since these are the two main flushes when they can be found in larger quantities.

Remember that one spot will have both flushes so check it twice.

LOOK ALIKES: Species of *Agrocybe* are often growing in mulch alongside the Wine Cap Stropharia. The unknown edibility Hard Agrocybe or Hardcracked Agrocybe (*Agrocybe dura*) and (*Agrocybe praecox*) do not have purplish gills. The Green Stropharia (*Stropharia aeruginosa*) who's cap is bluish green. The unknown edibility Questionable Stropharia (*Stropharia ambigua*) has a yellow colored cap. Hard's Stropharia (*Stropharia hardii*) does not have a purplish colored cap. The Lacerated Stropharia (*Stropharia hornemannii*).

EDIBILITY: Edible and Choice.

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS: It has a mild taste and is good cooked in butter. This mushroom has been served at The Gary Lincoff Mushroom Mania.

MACROCHEMICAL REACTIONS: KOH and sodium hydroxide indents and darkens the flesh and makes the cap turn somewhat olive green and makes the gills a greenish purple but only the caps which are wine colored and not faded out by the sun have the green color reaction on the cap. The faded ones do not turn green on the cap but still do on the gills. Also note that if the green colored cap is wiped off it will be yellowish orange colored.

BLACK LIGHT: The cracks in the cap and stem turn white to light purple, and the stem slightly purple at places. On young immature specimens the interior stalk and ring which has not yet broken away has some yellow but I have not yet observed this on mature ones.

AGROCYBE SPECIES



Their gills are never purplish colored.

They are often found in mulch growing beside the Wine Cap Stropharia.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dick Dougall

Many people have asked me how they can get better at finding mushrooms. I have a simple answer: **When you take a walk, always keep your eyes looking for mushrooms!** Over time you will learn where and when mushrooms appear and also find a surprising number of mushrooms. A field guide will allow you to get a tentative identification, but bringing your mushrooms to a club meeting will allow our knowledgeable club members to confirm your identification.

One of the difficult things about mushroom hunting is that mushrooms appear or "fruit" at seemingly random times and in random places. There are basic rules for when and where mushroom grow, but weather and habitat override the rules. You might find a particular mushroom one year and not see it again in the same area for several years.

It is great if you have woods, a park, or nature center nearby when you take your walks. This is not really necessary. My wife and I take walks in a small apartment complex near our home, mainly because it is a nice flat area for walking. There is some grass and trees between the apartment buildings. We usually walk in this area one or more times a week during nice weather. Often, we find only a few turkeytails on some dead wood. From time to time we do find mushrooms, and usually in very specific areas. We now know that oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) will fruit once a year on one specific tree in the complex. In another area, we will find Chicken-fat *Suillus* (*Suillus americanus*) in the fall. In another area under and near some pine trees, we find the Yellow-orange Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria* var. *formosa*) in large quantities in later summer and early fall. We find a variety of other mushrooms from time to time. I would not call this a great area for mushrooming, but being there often and keeping on the lookout for mushrooms allows us to keep in touch with the seasonal variation of mushrooms and pinpoint locations that can be productive.

For seven years, my mother was in a nursing home in Butler County. During my weekly visits, I would take time to walk around the grounds. In particular, there was a picnic area behind the building with oak trees similar to many areas in North Park where the club has walks. Again, for much of the time, there were not many mushrooms present except common shelf mushrooms on dead wood. From time to time, I did find interesting mushrooms. Some of these were: hen of the woods (*Grifola frondosa*), honey mushrooms (*Armillariella mellea*), slippery jacks (*Suillus luteus*), and the short-stalked white russula (*Russula brevipes*).

One time, in the first couple years walking this area, I found a very outstanding bright orange-red mushroom. Because of its color and unique appearance, I thought I would be able to easily identify it in my mushroom guides. This was not the case; it was a puzzle to me for a long time. However, I am reasonably certain now that this was a Lobster Mushroom (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*). If you look at the comments section for *Russula brevipes* in Lincoff's field guide, you will find a reference to this mushroom being parasitized into a Lobster Mushroom. I never saw this mushroom again!

I do take specific mushrooming walks in better and larger areas. However, the two places I described have increased my mushroom knowledge from very ordinary walks.

BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

By Jim Tunney

The Western PA Mushroom Club will present a daylong workshop in cooperation with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. This workshop is aimed at teaching beginning mushroom enthusiasts basic information about these fascinating objects. Topics will include nomenclature, taxonomy (how mushrooms are related to one another), collecting, identifying, preserving, using keys, and mushroom classification.

The education committee (Jim Tunney, Moni Wesner, and LaMonte Yarroll) will present the workshop. The Audubon Society will provide one of their classroom at Beechwood Farms for the program and handle the registration. The program will start at 9:30 AM and run until approximately 3 PM. Participants should bring their own lunches. The cost for this program is \$5 for WPMC and Audubon members and \$6 for nonmembers. The WPMC will credit the registration fee toward the club membership fee for new members or toward next club dues for present members. The facilities are limited to 40 participants, so early registration is encouraged.

Beechwood Farms will accept registrations by mail, phone, or at their nature store. To register by phone, call 412-963-6100. Please have a credit card ready. By mail, send your payment along with name, address, and phone number to: ASWP, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

WIZARD OF ID



WALKS & FORAYS by John Plischke III

We request that no one hunts a walk or foray location for at least two weeks prior to a walk or foray. It is only through your cooperation that we can have successful walks and forays. You can find last minute additions or changes by going to our website at <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org> and click on the link to Yahoo Groups.

June 5 – 10:30 – 2:30 **McConnell's Mill**, Butler County. Meet **Liz Barrow and Bob Lucas**. From the North or South: Take I-79 to the PA 422 exit. Go West on 422 for about a mile, turn left at the sign to McConnell's Mill onto McConnell's Mill Road. The sign is not obvious and is immediately at the turn. Follow this road to the parking lot and picnic area at the end. This area has been very productive on past walks.

June 12 – 10:00-2:00 **Hartwood Acres**, Allegheny County. Meet **Glenn Carr** at the parking lot in front of the Mansion (on the opposite side of the park from the Performance Center). Directions below.

June 26 – 10:00-2:00, **Deer Lakes Park**, Allegheny County, Russelton. Meet **Dick Dougall**. From the PA Turnpike get off at the Allegheny Valley Exit 5. Turn toward New Kensington. Turn left onto Route 28. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave, it becomes Russelton Road. In Russelton, turn right at the first intersection, look for a drug store, bank and liquor store and turn right. Go a short distance you will see a Deer Lakes Park sign, turn left into the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking lot, meet there.

July 3, 2:00 – 4:00 **Prince Gallitzin State Park**, Cambria County. Meet **Ed McConnell** and **John Plischke III** at the Park Office. When we were there before around this time of year, we found the black trumpet. Take Rt. 22 and right before you get to Ebensburg take 219 north. At Carrolltown, turn onto state route 4015. At Patton; take state route 1021 to the park. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/p-gall.htm

July 4, 2:00 – 4:00 **Sunday – Shawnee State Park**, Bedford County. Meet **John Bumbarger** and **John Plischke III** at the Park Office. We will hunt for chanterelles and other mushrooms. John Bumbarger has hunted this area often and thinks chanterelles may be up at this time. Follow US 30 east to Schellsburg, on the western side of Bedford. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/shawnee.aspx

July 7, Wednesday – 7:00 pm --??, **South Fayette Township Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III**. We will search for mushrooms, identify them, and have a slide show. From I-79, get off the Bridgeville Exit, turn right onto Rt. 50. Come to a T, turn right onto Washington Pike, proceed for 2.1 miles, turn left on Boyce Road, go .2 mile, onto Lawnshadow. Go to stop sign, turn right on Greenwood, go past 10 houses on right and find entrance to Park.

July 10 – 10:00-2:00 **Upper Dock Hollow, Freeport**, Armstrong County. Meet **Don Stone** and **Susan Baker**. Enjoy this mushroom walk along a trail that also has two beautiful waterfalls. Check the club website www.wpamushroomclub.org or Yahoo Groups groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub before the walk for directions to the meeting place. You can also call 724-834-2358 a week before the walk for directions.

July 10 – 1:30 and 7:30 **Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, West Virginia** 1:30 walk and identification and 7:30 a slide show and program. Meet at the lodge. From the north, take U.S. Rt. 219 to Thomas, then Rt. 32 south to the park. www.blackwaterfalls.com **1.800.CALL.WVA** Call a week before the walk for any additional information.

July 17 – 10:00-2:00 **North Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **Glenn Carr** at Swimming Pool parking lot. North Park has a variety of habitats, we will go to a secret location. Directions below.

July 18 – 1:30-3:30 **Sunday Hartwood Acres**, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall** at the parking lot in front of the Mansion (on the opposite side of the park from the Performance Center). We will hunt mushrooms and help you identify them. Directions below.

July 15-18 – NAMA foray 2004 will be held at the **University of North Carolina in Asheville, NC**. A great diversity of mushroom picking sites is found around this area. This summer, the foray is overlapping with MSA (the association of the professionals) so there will be a lot of mycologists to learn from! On the web, see www.namyco.org for the registration form. NAMA membership is required; one can sign up on the registration form. Our own Bill Roody, Walt Sturgeon, and John Plischke III will be members of the faculty.

July 24 – 10:00-2:00 **Chanterelle Mania at North Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **Valerie and Jack Baker** at Swimming Pool parking lot. Last year this spot produced bags and bags full of beautiful chanterelles. There were also a good number of boletes and other species. You never know what the season will bring, but it could be very good again. North Park has a variety of habitats, although the area abounds in large oaks there is a large variety of trees and habitats that make this an exceptional place for hunting mushrooms. Directions below.

July 23-25 Meet the Eastern Penn Mushroomers for the Helen Miknis Memorial Foray at Penn State University **Mont Alto Campus** (near beautiful Michaux State Forest) Last year 9 of our members attended this foray. Some combined it with a vacation and some came for mushrooms and Chambersburg peaches. Cost is \$150.00 per person for the weekend, including two (2) nights lodging, Friday picnic & Saturday dinner, and Saturday & Sunday breakfast. However, if you want to come for the Saturday program and join us for dinner, the cost would be \$20.00. You will receive final schedule and directions with your confirmation of registration. Camping is available at Caledonia State Park and in the Gettysburg area. Register with Bill Miknis, 3119 Parker Dr., Lancaster, PA 17601 or call 717-898-8897

or email eye4morels@juno.com for a registration form. Any question or suggestions call: Ed McConnell, Foray leader, 717-442-8037, ournuthouse@prodegy.net or John Dawson, President, 717-846-1225, jwd7@psu.edu

July 23-25 Chanterelle and Nature Extravaganza, Meet the Ohio Mushroom Society at a wildflower prairie natural area owned by Guy Denny located near I-71 and I-95. See the OMS website at www.ohiomushroom.org for more information.

July 31 - 9 am Meet John & Kim Plischke and the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy at the Conemaugh Lake Dam parking lot. At Route 22 New Alexandria red light go 987 north for 4.6 miles. Turn right at the Citgo Station onto Tunnleton Road. At 6.5 miles turn left on Pump Station Road and cross the bridge. At 7.4 miles turn right on Aven Road. At 8.1 miles turn right to Conemaugh River Lake. We will have the slide show in a room *in* the dam! The Army Corps of Engineers will demand seeing a photo ID and would prefer you to pre-register at (814) 536-6615 and ask for Julia or email herbstsonne5@pennswoods.net Hint: this is one of the Plischke's chanterelle spots!

Sept 9-12, 2004 NEMF Foray at Geneva Point Conference Center in Center Harbor on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH. There will be lectures and workshops all day Friday and Saturday, as well as many forays to choose from. There is no membership requirement. On the web, see www.nemf.org for upcoming info and registration form for the foray.

DIRECTIONS to North Park www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/parkphon.asp From Pittsburgh go north on Rt. 8. Turn left onto Wildwood Road onto the Yellow Belt (Ford Dealer and Boston Market on the right). Go 1.3 mi. to a red light; go straight (W Hardies). Continue another 1.6 mi. to a red light at North Park Entrance, road name changes to Ingomar Road at this intersection, Turn left on Babcock Blvd. Follow the signs to the Swimming Pool parking lot and find the car with a yellow ribbon on the antenna.

DIRECTIONS to Hartwood Acres: From PA Turnpike: Take Allegheny Valley (Exit 5). Stay right on the exit ramp. Turn right onto Route 910 West. Go 4 1/2 miles and turn left onto Saxonburg Blvd. at the red blinking light. Follow Saxonburg Blvd. about 2 1/2 miles, entrance will be on your right. This is about a mile and a half from Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

For all walks and forays, bring water and lunch. Dress for the weather. Bring basket, wax bags, whistle, compass, chair, hand lens, and books for identification. Come 15-30 min early and socialize. Check web site or Yahoo Groups for changes. Bring your membership card and a friend or two.

WPMC Meetings/Programs by Dick Dougall

Members are encouraged to bring mushrooms from home and place them on paper plates on the table in the back of the room so that club mycologists and identifiers can put names on them so you and all club members can learn new mushrooms.

Meetings/Programs begin at 7:00 pm at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

June 15: Home Mushroom Cultivation with Mark Spear & Rebecca Miller. They are club members who work professionally on the commercial propagation of mushrooms. Mark and Rebecca will revisit their previous presentation (July, 2002) on growing oyster mushrooms. This talk turned many club members into successful mushroom cultivators. They will update the club on their techniques for amateurs with this mushroom. They will also discuss some of their other mushroom propagation projects and equipment. At the beginning of the meeting **LaMonte Yarroll** will conduct a 10 minute beginner's workshop. The Fascinating Fungi Topic will be **What is a Genus?**

July 20: Art with the Artist's Conk Mushroom Kim Plischke, Workshop Chair and Robin Durr, Dick Duffy and Joyce Gross, Committee Members. Committee Members would like you to bring along fresh untouched unmarked species of Artist's Conk along to the meeting. Most people know that there is a mushroom called the Artist's Conk which has a surface that marks easily when scratched. However, the Artist's Conk (*Ganoderma applanatum*) can be used in many additional ways. The club has a number of very talented artists on its Workshop Committee. At this meeting, they will give a hands-on demonstration of many techniques of turning Artist's Conks into true art. At the beginning of the meeting **Jim Tunney** will conduct a 10 minute beginner's workshop. The Fascinating Fungi Topic will be **Mushroom Keys.**

August 17: How to Enjoy Mushrooms Even Without Eating Them by LaMonte Yarroll.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS to Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: www.aswp.org/beechwood.html

12 minutes from PA Turnpike Exit 5, Allegheny Valley (New Kensington/Pittsburgh) after tollbooth go south 1.2 miles on Freeport Road towards Pittsburgh. At the fourth stoplight (Eat'n'Park Restaurant on the right) turn right onto Guys Run Road. Go 4.1 miles to the second stop sign. Notice, part way on your journey Guys Run Road becomes Fox Chapel Road without any notification. Fox Chapel Road dead ends into Dorseyville Road. Turn left on Dorseyville and go .7 of a mile to Beechwood, on the right.

"Largest Mushroom Club in the Ten-State Area"

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
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New Kensington, PA 15068

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CLUB OFFICERS

President: Dick Dougall 412-486-7504
rsdme@imap.pitt.edu 202 Wadsworth Dr, Glenshaw, PA 15116
Vice President: Glenn Carr 412-369-0495
1848 Fairhill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 gbrown2cars@cs.com
Treasurer: George Gross 724-339-8547
58 Seventh St Ext, New Kensington, PA 15068
Secretary: Joyce Gross 724-339-8547 ggross@microconnect.net
Corresponding Secretary: Valerie Baker 412-367-7696
vbbaker8@hotmail.com 1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

COMMITTEES

Cultivation Chairman: Mark Spear 724-297-3377
mspear@penn.com RR4, Box 237E, Kittanning, PA 16201
Education Chairman: Jim Tunney 412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com
6041 Stanton Avenue, Apt#1, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
LaMonte Yarroll and Moni Wesner
Historian: Jane Duffy 412-492-0104
230 Indiana Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116-3012
Hospitality Chair: Jerry Price (See Welcoming Chair) George & Mary Jane Yakulis,
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Mushroom Display: Dorothy Fornof 412-767-9925
225 Indianola Road, Cheswick, PA 15024
Mid Atlantic Foray Chair: John Plischke 724-834-2358
morelbp@aol.com 129 Grant Street, Greensburg, PA 15601
Mycological Recorder: Bob Lucas 412-422-8976
mlucas@microspell.com 5840 Northumberland St., Pgh, PA 15217
Newsletter Editor: Becky Plischke 724-834-2358
morelbp@aol.com 129 Grant Street, Greensburg, PA 15601
Photography Chair: Robert Boice 724-446-0524 blgym@msn.com
152 Beeno Road, Irwin, PA 15642
Publicity Chair: Valerie Baker (See Corresponding Secretary)
Speakers Bureau: Dick Dougall (See President)
Eugene Kadar, Mike Lloyd, John Plischke III, Moni Wesner, LaMonte Yarroll
Walk & Foray Chair: John Plischke III 724-832-0271
funqi01@aol.com 201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601
Web Master: Elizabeth Barrow 412-422-8976
5840 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 ebarrow@telerama.com
Welcoming Chairman: Jerry Price 724-444-6472
2805 Florence Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044

Workshop Chair: Kim Plischke 724-832-0271
Ladiebuqzpk@aol.com 201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601
Robin Durr, Dick Duffy and Joyce Gross
Yahoo Groups Moderator: Jim Strutz 412-276-7471 strutzj@strutz.com
82 Pilgrim Road, Carnegie, PA 15106

Scientific Advisor: Walt Sturgeon CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Robert Boice (See Photography Chair)
Dorothy Fornof (See Mushroom Display Chair)
John Plischke III (See Walk & Foray Chair)
Dr. Fred Schrock 610 South 7th St, Indiana Pa
La Monte Yarroll 412-854-5684 piggvy@baqaqi.chi.il.us
5770 Clark Ave, Bethel Park, PA 15102

IDENTIFIERS

Jack Baker 412-367-7696 vbbaker8@hotmail.com
Susan Baker 724-283-9123 smidwife@zoominternet.net
John Bumbarger shrumall@yahoo.com
Doug Dickman 724-626-1542 larshalfass@yahoo.com
Bob Lucas (See Mycological Recorder)
Ed McConnell ourmuthouse@prodigy.net
Kim Plischke (See Workshop Chair)
Jim Strutz (See Yahoo Groups Moderator)
Jim Tunney (See Education Chairman)

WALK LEADERS

Valerie Baker (See Recording Secretary)
Glenn Carr (See Vice President)
Dick Dougall (See President)
Dick Duffy 412-486-3913 2841 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101
Robert Fornof 412-767-9925 225 Indianola Road, Cheswick, PA 15024
John Plischke (See Mid Atlantic Foray Chair)
Mary Lou Riegel 412-487-1527 mriegel@federatedinv.com
Don Stone 412-441-2027 dastonearch@yahoo.com
5933 Wellesley Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Wendy Terwilliger 412-343-3458 wter@peoplepc.com
Charlotte Tunney 412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com

Legal Council: Mike Lloyd

Past President: Mary Woehrel 678-457-4026
marigold4343@yahoo.com 4720 Crest Knoll Dr., Mableton, GA 30126
Past President: John Plischke (See Mid Atlantic Foray Chair)